IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claim 6 as follows. The status of all claims currently in the case is set forth below.

1. (Withdrawn) A membrane for separating plasma or serum from blood, having a porosity of not more than 30%.

2. (Withdrawn) The plasma or serum separating membrane according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of through holes are provided so as to penetrate from one side to the other side of the membrane.

3. (Withdrawn) The plasma or serum separating membrane according to claim 2, wherein diameters of the through holes fall within the range of 0.05 to 2.0 μm.

4. (Withdrawn) The plasma or serum separating membrane according to claim 1, wherein mean surface roughness of the membrane is not more than 100 nm.

5. (Withdrawn) The plasma or serum separating membrane according to claim 1, used as a corpuscle blocking membrane for preventing contamination by corpuscles.

6. (Currently Amended) A filter apparatus comprising:

a first filter member through which plasma can move faster than corpuscles; said first filter member having an upstream and downstream part and having a packing density of the downstream part higher than a packing density of the upstream part in the filter member; and a plasma or serum separating membrane for separating plasma or serum from blood, said separating membrane having a porosity of not more than ~~30%~~ 25% and a mean surface roughness of not more than 100 nm, and being serially connected in a subsequent stage with the first filter member.

7. (Previously Presented) The filter apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the filter member serves as a first filter member, the plasma or serum separating membrane serves as a second filter member, and a third filter member made of fiber having a mean fiber diameter of not less than 3.0 μm and a bulk density of not more than 0.3 g/cm^3 is provided upstream of the first filter member.

8. (Previously Presented) The filter apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first filter member is made of fiber, and the mean fiber diameter is from 0.2 to 3.0 μm and the filled density is from 0.1 to 0.5 g/cm^3.

9. (Withdrawn) A filter apparatus comprising:

a container body having an opening at its one end;

a cylindrical member attached to the opening of the container body in liquid-tight manner;

a first filter member placed in the cylindrical member, through which plasma can move faster than corpuscles; and

a second filter member comprising the membrane for separating plasma or serum from blood according to claim 1, serially connected with the first filter member in subsequent stage in the cylindrical member;

wherein the first and the second filter members are disposed in a filter accommodation part, a blood accommodation part is formed in precedent stage of the filter accommodation part, and a plasma or serum storage part is formed on the downstream side of the filter accommodation part.

10. (Withdrawn) The filter apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

a third filter member provided in precedent stage of the first filter member, made of fiber having a mean fiber diameter of not less than 3.0 μm and a bulk density of not more than 0.3 g/cm^3.

11. (Previously Presented) The filter apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first filter member through which plasma can move faster than corpuscles has a property of adsorbing fibrinogen contained in blood, plasma or a fibrinogen solution.

12. (Previously Presented) The filter apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the filter apparatus further comprises a container having an internal space therein; and an anticoagulant component is stored in at least a part of the internal space of the filter apparatus where filter members are accommodated or an upstream side of the part in the internal space.

13. (Previously Presented) The filter apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the filter apparatus further comprises a container having an internal space therein; and an accelerator for accelerating coagulation of blood is stored in at least a part of the internal space downstream of the filter members in the internal space.

14. (Previously Presented) The filter apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a blood accommodation part is provided at an upstream side of the first and second filter members; and an aqueous solution having an osmotic pressure of 200 to 300 mOsm/kg is added to at least a part of the section from the blood accommodation part to the first and the second filter members.

15. (Previously Presented) The filter apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the aqueous solution contains an internal standard substance.

16. (Withdrawn) The filter apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a volume ratio of the blood accommodation part, filter accommodation part and plasma or serum storage part is in the range of 0.5-2:1:1-10.

17. (Previously Presented) A blood testing container including the filter apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a strip of immunochromatographical diagnostic agent to be added to the separated plasma or serum is stored in the blood testing container.

18. (Previously Presented) The filter apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said first filter member is made of polyester-based resin.

19. (Previously Presented) The filter apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said first filter member is made of polyester-based resin.

20. (Previously Presented) The filter apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first filter member is made of polyester-based resin.